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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)/Poland

DATE DISTR. 3 August 1950

SUBJECT Increase of Russian Train
Escorts in Poland

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1
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1. The strength of the Soviet escorts for transit trains through Poland has been tripled in Frankfurt/Oder. This measure, effective 15 April 1950, was taken because of such sabotage in Western Poland as demolition of bridges and plundering of trains. *

Comment. News of sabotage of Soviet transit traffic through Poland seems to be grossly exaggerated, although it also has appeared in newspapers. Engineers assigned to locomotive brigades operating through Poland say that so far only some food trains, chiefly sugar trains, have been plundered, and that no bridge demolitions have occurred on the lines operated by them. The reinforcement of Soviet train escorts is believed to be a precautionary measure against plundering which is motivated not by political considerations, but by the scarcity of food in Poland.

Document No. 11
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Class. Changed To: TS S (C)
Auth.: HR 70-2
Date: 14/7/78 By: _____

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